ductivity of cotton and if there is a need, why this national body is not doing any research on increasing the productivity of cotton.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, this particular Institute, the Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Bombay does not directly undertake research relating to crop production or increasing the productivity of cotton. This particular area of research is handled by the Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur. So, that is the Central Institute handling the particular area. This Institute, CIRCOT, handles research of post-harvest cotton technology, the value addition of cotton and cotton waste, cleaning, ginning, fibre properties, crop-residue utilisation, training etc. It is against that background that a technical answer has been given that this particular Institute about which the hon. Member asked does not do research on productivity and increasing crop production.

I agree with the hon. Member about the importance of cotton crop to this country. The ICAR and the institutes under it are continuously striving for increasing the productivity of cotton and we have accomplished substantial results in this area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It might be a good idea to change the name of this Institute; otherwise, the people will be confused.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: If the Minister was right, I must compare the figures that I have with me with his figures. I have the figures of cotton production for the last three years. In the year 1989-90 we had an annual production of 11.4 million bales. But in the subsequent years, that is 1990-91 and 1991-92, we had a fall in cotton production, viz., 9.8 million bales per year. That fall in production amounts to 14 per cent. The Minister said in the House that they have achieved substantial results in increasing cotton production. The production has increased mainly in the States of Karnataka and Punjab. In the rest of the provinces the cotton production has fallen. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the figures that I have mentioned in the House are correct and if the cotton production has fallen in the last three years to a substantial level of 14 per cent what the strategy is that he proposes other than research to increase production.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, I will have to check up the figures mentioned by the hon. Member. (Interruptions)... The figures given by the hon. Member do not seem to be correct because in the recent past the country had a quantum jump in cotton production. We have produced in the last year 133.5 lakh bales and the productivity has increased to 299 kilograms yield per hectare. This is supposed to be 17 per cent or 18 per cent, more and not 14 per cent less than the previous yield.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: As regards the national production, I have got authentic figures.

*245. [The Questioner (Shri Mentay Padmanabham) was absent for answer vide col. .....infra.]

**Bagload weight of foodgrains stored in FCI Godowns**

*246. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has stipulated weight restrictions on headloads; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the average weight of bag of foodgrains stored in FCI godowns;

(c) whether these loads are manually carried by permanent/temporary loaders;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to reduce the weight of the bags; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) The International Labour Organisation adopted a Convention in June, 1967 requiring the regulation of manual transport and loads in all the branches of economic activity for which a system of labour inspection is maintained. Supplementing the Convention, a Recommendation stipulated, amongst other things, that where the maximum permissible weight that may be transported manually by one adult male worker is more than 55 Kgs. measures should be taken as speedly as possible to reduce it to that level. This Convention has not yet been ratified by India.

(b) The normal weight of foodgrain bags stored in FCI godowns is 95 Kgs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The matter is under examination.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Sir, I want to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to compensate the loaders for the extra load carried by them and whether the Government is going to provide any medical or long-term benefits to the loaders. (*Interruptions*)... Shall I repeat it again?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you finished?

AN HON. MEMBER: He has finished the question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you heard it? Please answer.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Sir, round about fifty thousand workers are working in this field. According to the international standards, every bag-load should be of 50 kilograms. But the weight of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns, according to the Minister, is 95 kilograms per bag. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to compensate the loaders for the extra load which they are carrying and whether the Government is going to provide any medical aid to the loaders because of the health hazard they are facing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want an answer you hurry up, otherwise, the time is ending.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: सभापति महोदय, इन्टरनेशनल लेबर ग्रारगेनाइजेशन ने प्रस्ताव किया कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो मजदूर बोरे होते है, वह सौ किलो की जगह पचास किलो का कर दिया जाना चाहिए। हमारे देश में जो फूड कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया है, उसमें सौ किलो क चीनी का बोरा होता है, 65 किलो का धान का होता है और 95 किलो का चावल-गेहूं का होता है। दुनिया में केवल करीब 22 देशों ने इन्टरनेनेनल लेबर ग्रारगेनाइजेशन के सिद्धान्त को लागू किया है और हमारे देश में हमारी सरकार एग्जामिन कर रही है कि हमें क्या करना चाहिए इसके संबंध में और श्रम तथा फूड मंत्रालय, दोनों इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं।

**Training and visit agricultural extension scheme**

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Training and visit agricultural extension scheme**

*245. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to scrap the Training and Visit Agricultural Extension Scheme in the next financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternative measures Government propose to take to emphasise extension strategy in agriculture?